

CLAIMS

1. A digital compliance seal comprising:
an indicator or an instruction to indicate, which indication or instruction is transmissible to an Internet user;
the seal being indicative of a classification of an Internet resource and transmissible in conjunction with a digital certificate;
the certificate having as an input, the classification.
2. The seal of claim 1, wherein:
the seal is a graphical image which is also a hyperlink or button style link.
3. The seal of claim 1, wherein:
a digital signature is embedded in the digital certificate.
4. In a method of generating a digital certificate, the improvement comprising:
utilising a classification of an Internet resource as an input;
the classification furthering a public policy.
5. Software for an Internet browser, comprising:
computer readable code for generating a user interface;
codes for generating an indicator, such as a visual or audible indicator, on a user's PC, when a digital certificate associated with an Internet resource and received by the browser, corresponds to a classification which the user has programmed the browser to accept; and
code for blocking an Internet resource when it is not associated with a digital certificate, or when the digital certificate does not correspond to the classification.

6. The software of claim 5, wherein:
the user interface is adapted to display a predetermined graphical image which corresponds to a classification, when the certificate corresponds to that classification.
7. The software of claim 6, wherein:
the graphical image is a link.
8. The software of claim 7, wherein:
the link is a link to a CA or RA.
9. A method of operating an ISP, comprising the steps of:
running software for receiving digital certificates which are associated with Internet resources which have been requested by a user of the ISP;
the digital certificate carrying a classification within a classification regime promulgated by a CA;
receiving from a user, instructions as to which classifications the user wishes to receive;
comparing the user instructions to the classification carried by the digital certificate; and
forwarding the resource to the user only if the comparison is favourable.
10. A method of publishing Internet content, comprising the steps of:
applying a classification system to an Internet resource and thereby arriving at a classification for that resource;

transmitting a digital seal of compliance or a flag for a seal of compliance as part of that resource, the seal or flag being indicative of the classifications;

associating the seal or flag with a digital certificate which is issued by a CA which implements the classification system, the certificate having the classification as an input; and

transmitting the certificate in conjunction with the seal or flag.